GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4484
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
PNEUMONIA TEST AT AIRPORT
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of reports of unknown form of pneumonia spreading in some Asian countries and Canada the Ministry had issued directions to all the airports in the country to conduct medical tests on all the passengers entering in India; and

(b) if so, the details of the contigency plan prepared by the Ministry in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)
(a) & (b):- Yes, Sir. Suitable instructions have been issued in consultation with Ministry of Health and Ministry of HomeAffairs to all airlines to sanitize all aircrafts coming from affected countries. Director General of Health Services(DGHS) has positioned doctors at Health Counters set up at12 international and 9 Customs airports in India. HealthForms have been made available to Airlines and in immigration areas of above Airports to be filled in by all persons disembarking in India to screen symptoms of suspected/probable Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)cases. As per contingency plan, all the suspected cases are to be transported to the designated local hospitals for suitable action. Masks have been supplied at the 5 major airports for the immigration staff performing duty at the Arrival side. Further, World Health Organisation recommended case definition has been adopted for India and circulated to all concerned organisations. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for investigation of any suspected/probable case. Indian Council of Medical Research(ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be causing SARS. Media is being kept informed on the efforts made by the Government to prevent SARS entering the country and to create public awareness.